



# MIGRATION & REFUGEES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR TEACHING ETHICALLY & EFFECTIVELY

- Briefly review ground rules for discussion and remind students to communicate respectfully.
- Be sensitive to students' personal histories related to migration and the feelings that this topic may bring up for them.
- Avoid situations where students who have personal experience with immigration are put on the spot and expected to speak for all immigrants or all refugees.
- Remind students to use “I statements” and to avoid speaking for another person or community.
- Encourage students to critically examine both the topic and their feelings about it.
- Be mindful that the notion of the United States as a “nation of immigrants” does not take into account the experience of Native Americans or many African Americans.
- Complicate thinking. Immigration is a complex and multi-faceted issue.
- Ask students to speak or write about the subject carefully and to be aware of ways that bias shows up in language, e.g. “undocumented immigrant” vs. “illegal alien.”